What is claimed:

1. A method of screening a candidate molecule to identify its ability to inhibit or prevent the dissociation of a TACI/TACI-L complex, said method comprising the steps of:
   a. forming said TACI/TACI-L complex or a TACI/TACI-L fragment complex in the absence of said candidate molecule;
   b. adding said candidate molecule to a medium containing said TACI/TACI-L complex or said TACI/TACI-L fragment complex;
   c. changing the conditions of said medium so that, but for the presence of said candidate molecule, said TACI or TACI fragments, would be released from the complex;
   d. measuring the concentration of free or bound said TACI, TACI-L or fragments thereof; and
   e. determining the dissociation constant of said TACI/TACI-L complex or said TACI/TACI-L fragment complex and comparing said constant to a dissociation constant of a TACI/TACI-L complex or TACI/TACI-L fragment complex measured in a medium not containing the candidate molecule.

2. A method of screening a candidate molecule to identify its ability to inhibit a TACI/TACI-L complex, said method comprising the steps of:
   a. adding TACI to a medium containing TACI-L and said candidate molecule, wherein one of either said TACI or said TACI-L is labeled and the other is bound;
   b. measuring the level of signal produced; and
   c. comparing the level of signal produced in step (b) to the level of signal produced by a TACI/TACI-L complex or TACI/TACI-L fragment complex formed with said labeled TACI or TACI-L in the absence of said candidate molecule;

wherein diminished levels of signal produced in step (b) indicate that said candidate molecule inhibited said TACI/TACI-L complex.

3. A method of screening a candidate molecule to identify its ability to mimic the biological activity of the TACI/TACI-L complex, said method comprising the steps of :

a. determining if said candidate molecule binds to TACI, TACI-L or fragments thereof;

b. adding said candidate molecule to a biological assay to determine its biological effects; and

c. comparing said biological effects of said candidate molecule with the biological effects of said TACI/TACI-L complex or a TACI/TACI-L fragment complex.

4. A method of screening a candidate molecule to identify its ability to be useful in the treatment of diseases modulated by the TACI/TACI-L complex, said method comprising the steps of:

a. forming said TACI/TACI-L complex or a TACI/TACI-L fragment complex in the absence of said candidate molecule;

b. adding said candidate molecule to a medium containing said TACI/TACI-L complex or said TACI/TACI-L fragment complex;

c. changing the conditions of said medium so that, but for the presence of said candidate molecule, said TACI or TACI fragments, would be released from said TACI/TACI-L complex or said TACI/TACI-L fragment complex;

d. measuring the concentration of free or bound said TACI, TACI-L or fragments thereof; and

e. determining the dissociation constant of said TACI/TACI-L complex or said TACI/TACI-L fragment complex and comparing said constant to a dissociation constant of a TACI/TACI-L complex or TACI/TACI-L fragment complex measured in a medium not containing the candidate molecule.

5. A method of screening a candidate molecule to identify its ability to be useful in the treatment of diseases modulated by the TACI/TACI-L complex, said method comprising the steps of:

a. adding TACI to a medium containing TACI-L and said candidate molecule, wherein one of either said TACI or said TACI-L is labeled and the other is bound;

b. measuring the level of signal produced; and

c. comparing the level of signal produced in step (b) to the level of signal produced by a TACI/TACI-L complex or TACI/TACI-L fragment complex formed with said labeled TACI or TACI-L in the absence of said candidate molecule.

6. A method of screening a candidate molecule to identify its ability to be useful in the treatment of diseases modulated by the TACI/TACI-L complex, said method comprising the steps of:

a. determining if said candidate molecule binds to TACI or TACI-L;

b. adding said candidate molecule to a biological assay to determine its biological effects; and

c. comparing the biological effects of said candidate molecule with the biological effects of said TACI/TACI-L complex or a TACI/TACI-L fragment complex.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 through 6 in which the candidate molecule is selected from a group consisting of a small molecule, antibody, or peptide.

8. The method of claims 1, 3, 4 or 6, in which either TACI or TACI-L, or fragments thereof, is labeled.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 through 6, in which at least one fragment of said TACI/TACI-L fragment complex is soluble.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 through 6, in which said TACI/TACI-L complex is comprised of the sequence of SEQ. ID. NO.:2 and the sequence of SEQ. ID. NO.:4.

11. A method of screening a candidate molecule to identify its ability to inhibit (antagonize) or agonize a TACI/TACI-L complex, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) adding said candidate molecule to a medium which contains cells expressing TACI and cells expressing TACI-L;

(b) changing the conditions of said medium so that, but for the presence of said candidate molecule, said TACI/TACI-L complex and/or a TACI/TACI-L fragment complex would be formed;

(c) determining the level of biological activity of said TACI/TACI-L complex and/or said TACI/TACI-fragment complex formed in said medium; and

(d) comparing the level of biological activity of step (c) with the level of biological activity that occurs in said medium in the absence of said candidate molecule.

12. An antagonist as identified by the method of claim 11.

13. An agonist as identified by the method of claim 11.

14. A method of modulating an intracellular signaling cascade mediated by the TACI/TACI-L complex in a mammal comprising administering to such a mammal an effective amount of an agonist or an antagonist of the TACI/TACI-L complex.